

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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O R 290845Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8383

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS DAR ES SALAAM 1768

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (SMUTS, SMITH AND HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: NEW DAILY NEWS EDITORIAL

1. GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS EDITORIAL

ANOTHER LESS THAN GRACIOUS EDITORIAL ON KIDNAPPING. TEXT
FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE. IN THE WAKE OF THE ABDUCTION OF FOUR FOREIGN
STUDENTS AND THE SUBSEQUENT RELEASE OF ONE OF THEM BY THEIR
CAPTORS, DEMANDS MADE ON TANZANIA HAVE MADE IT NECESSARY FOR
THIS COUNTRY'S POSITION TO BE RESTATED ON THE RELEVANT ISSUES.

THE ABDUCTORS DEMANDED RANSOM FOR THE RELEASE OF THE
STUDENTS, THREATENING TO KILL THEM IF THEIR DEMANDS WERE NOT
MET INSIDE 60 DAYS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY STATED THAT IT
TOTALLY REJECTS RANSOM AS A BASIS FOR DEALING WITH SUCH
SITUATIONS.

BUT THE ABDUCTORS, NOW BEING LABELLED AS MEMBERS OF THE
PEOPLES' REVOLUTIONARY PARTY OF THE CONGO, ALSO DEMANDED MONEY
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FROM TANZANIA AMOUNTING TO NEARLY FOUR MILLION SHILLINGS.

THEIR REASON FOR DEMANDING THE MONEY IS TO PUNISH TANZANIA FOR MAINTAINING GOOD BROTHERLY RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE, TO WHICH THE GANG ARE OPPOSED.

A FUNDAMENTAL TENET ON WHICH TANZANIA'S DEALINGS WITH OTHER STATES ARE BASED IS THAT WE CHOOSE NO FRIENDS FOR THEM, SO THEY CHOOSE NONE FOR US. WE CHOOSE NO ENEMIES FOR THEM, AND THEY IN TURN CHOOSE NONE FOR US.

ANY COUNTRY, HOWEVER BIG OR SMALL, HOWEVER WEAK OR POWERFUL, HOWEVER FRIENDLY IT IS TO US, THAT TRIES TO CHANGE THIS POSITION HAS ALWAYS FOUND US UNCOMPROMISING. THAT IS OUR POSITION AND WE WILL ENTERTAIN NO PRESSURE TO CHANGE IT.

THE ABDUCTORS ALSO TRIED TO GET TANZANIA TO CHANGE ONE OTHER PRINCIPLE GUIDING ITS DEALINGS WITH BOTH THE REFUGEES AND THE COUNTRIES FROM WHICH THEY COME, BY DEMANDING THAT INDIVIDUALS THEY CALLED "OUR PEOPLE" SHOULD BE SENT BACK.

TANZANIA IS BOUNDED BY EIGHT OTHER COUNTRIES. IT HAS RECEIVED AND WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES FROM TIME TO TIME. IT WILL NOT ENTERTAIN BLACKMAIL EITHER FROM THE COUNTRIES THE REFUGEES COME FROM OR FROM THE REFUGEES THEMSELVES OR THEIR ORGANISATIONS.

FINALLY, THE ABDUCTORS MADE A MUST CEROUS DEMAND TO THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT. THEY WANTED TANZANIA TO SUPPLY THEM WITH AMERICAN AND BELGIAN FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION, TO CARRY OUT THEIR SO-CALLED "REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES."

ALL ALONG THE PUBLIC HAVE BEEN FED WITH THE INFORMATION THAT THE GANG THAT ABDUCTED THE FOUR STUDENTS BELONGS TO THE PEOPLES' REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, AND NEWS AGENCY REPORTS HAVE ENSURED THAT THE GANG IS DESCRIBED AS "MARXIST."

DOES IT STAND TO REASON THAT A REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATION WOULD GO OUT OF ITS WAY TO USE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO PRESSURISE TANZANIA TO DEMAND FOR FIREARMS WHICH IT IS KNOWN THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT POSSESS?

WHY WOULD THE SO CALLED REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATION INSIST THAT THE ONLY ARMS WITH WHICH IT CAN CARRY OUT ITS ACTIVITIES MUST BE BELGIAN AND AMERICAN? WHAT KIND OF A REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATION IS THIS?

ARE THE ABDUCTORS TRULY THE VERY PRP WE KNOW OR ARE THEY SOMEONE ELSE'S CREATION OF THE PRP, CONVENIENTLY GROOMED TO WEAR THE PRP LABEL AND FITTING INTO A GRAND DESIGN MOOTED AND HATCHED BY THE VERY ENEMIES OF AFRICA TO SUIT THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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SINISTER DESIGNS AGAINST TANZANIA AND ZAIRE? PONDER THIS EVERYONE. UNQUOTE.

3. SAME ISSUE CARRIES FRONT PAGE ARTICLE UNDER HEADLINE "ZAIRE ASKED TO INTERVENE TO FRR STUDENTS." PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPHS OF BERGMAN, HUNTER AND SMITH ARE INCLUDED. TEXT AS FOLLOWS:

4. QUOTE. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN KINSHASA IS CONSULTING WITH THE ZAIRE AUTHRORITIES TO SEEK THE RELEASE OF THE THREE FOREIGN STUDENTS KIDNAPPED BY ZAIREANS IN KIGOMA LAST WEEK.

ADDRESSING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN DAR ES SALAAM YESTERDAY, THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA, MR. BEVERLY CARTER, JNR, SAID TTAT HIS COUNTERPART IN ZAIRE HAD ALREADY HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ZAIRE FOREIGN MINISTER ON THIS ISSUE.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY MR. NORMAN HUNTER AND MR. JOSEPH SMITH, FATHERS OF CARRIE HUNTER AND KENNETH SMITH -- BOTH STILL BEING HELD BY THE KIDNAPPERS -- AND MRS. ALICE SMUTS, MOTHER OF BARBARA SMUTS WHO WAS RELEASED AND SENT BY THE KIDNAPPERS WITH A THREE-POINT RANSOM DEMAND TO PRESIDENH NYERERE.

REITERATING THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENM'S STAND ON THE KIDNAPPING, MR. CARTER STATED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD CATEGORICALLY REJECTED THE RANSOM DEMANF. "WE HAVE NEVER PAID RANSOM AND WE DO NOT RECOMMEND IT," HE STRESSED.

HE SAID THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THE AVENUES AVAILABLE, AND HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT A WAY COULD BE FOUND TO HAVE THE HOSTAGES RELEASED.

MR. CARTER SAID THAT A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS HAD EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN AT THE FATE OF THE THREE STUDENTS, BUT HE DECLINED TO STATE WHETHER THEY WOULD BE REQUESTED TO USE THEIR GOOD OFFICES.

HE SAID HE WAS "VERY SATISFIED" WITH THE COOPERATION EXTENDED BY THE TANZANIAN AUTHORITIES.

THE TANZANIA GOVERNMENT ON MONDAY REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE DEMANDS BY THY ABDUKTORS, NOW HOLDING THE STUDENTS IN A CAMP IN ZAIRE. UNQUOTE.

CARTER

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